Discussions with the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister

*51. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the outcome of the recent talks of the visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister with the Government leaders here; and

(b) what is the Government's considered reaction to Sri Lanka's reported demands for speeding up the withdrawal of the IPKF and its complaint that IPKF had armed T.N.A. in the north-eastern provinces?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's visit to Delhi (December 6 to 8) was for conveying the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of Sri Lanka to the Prime minister and to our new Government. The talks with the Foreign Minister were on matters of mutual interest including the de-induction of IPKF, and recent developments in the North Eastern Province.

In the discussions Government reiterated its resolve to strengthen relations with neighbouring countries, in keeping with the commitments made in the National Front's manifesto. Both Governments were of the view that the approach should be one of trust and cooperation and of a joint endeavour for the mutual fulfilment of obligations.

Plying of private buses on D.T.C. Routes

*52. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that despite various measures taken by Government, the involvement of private buses running on Delhi Transport Corporation routes in fatal accidents continues to be on the rise;

(b) if so, what is the comparative number of fatal road accidents involving Delhi Transport Corporation buses and the private buses running on D.T.C. routes since the beginning of 1989, till date;

(c) whether Government propose to review the question of plying of private buses on Delhi Transport Corporation routes with a view to impose more strict conditions on them besides ensuring the road worthiness of the buses; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNI KRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) During January-November, 1989, fatal accidents involving D.T.C. buses were 161 and those involving private buses were 48. With reference to the number of buses operated by DTC and private operators, the rate of fatal accidents per bus per month for a period of January-November, 1989 works out to 0.0037 for DTC and 0.0059 for private operators buses.

(c) and (d) In the context of increasing traffic demand and the constraints of resources of DTC